

CASE STUDY # 7: IC Directors With Intramural Laboratories Collaborating With Extramural Organizations.

The Director of the NIH Mental Health Institute, Dr. Mary Cosner, has an intramural laboratory at the Aging Institute. In her intramural capacity, Dr. Cosner is collaborating with scientists at John Hopkins University. Dr. Grannet, an investigator from John Hopkins, who is not a collaborator with Dr. Cosner, submits an application in response to a Mental Health Institute RFA.

Can Dr. Cosner be involved in the review or approval of Dr. Grannet's application?

Dr. Cosner, as Director the Mental Health institute, always is recused from anything to do with John Hopkins University and with any of the scientists with whom she is collaborating. In this particular situation, where a John Hopkins University scientist submits an application to a Mental Health RFA, Dr. Cosner becomes in conflict with the entire RFA and must be recused from anything to do with applications in response to that RFA or activities surrounding the RFA including signing off on any funding decisions.

Who approves documentation in cases where Dr. Cosner is recused?

All signature and actions for grants resulting from this RFA must be sent to the DDER for signature.

What about unsolicited applications John Hopkin's may submit to Mental Health?

If John Hopkins submits an unsolicited proposal to the Mental Health Institute, Dr. Cosner is recused from actions on any John Hopkins applications but otherwise is not in conflict when applications come before her that may have competed in the same review group.

Should Dr. Cosner continue to establish research collaborations with institutions and PIs that are supported by or will submit applications to Mental Health?

Clearly, as an IC Director, Dr. Cosner should carefully consider all collaborations with which she enters in her intramural capacity because of how it may impact her extramural responsibilities. As her collaborations grow more recusals will be necessary which may cause a serious disruption of her extramural responsibilities.

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